

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 01295 01 OF 02 081740Z

44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

H-02 NSC-05 SS-15 IO-10 /073 W
----- 092697

P R 081450Z MAR 75

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 527

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

USLOSACLANT

CINCLANT

USDOCOSOUTH

AMEMBASSY LONDON

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 1295

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO, UK

SUBJ: UK DEFENSE REVIEW; MOD MASON LETTER TO SYG LUNS

UNDER "ANY OTHER BUSINESS" AGENDA ITEM OF MARCH 7, DPC MEETING, UK DCM (LOGAN) CALLED PERMREPS ATTENTION TO LETTER FROM MOD MASON TO SYG CONCERNING BRITISH REACTION TO DPC TREATMENT OF UK DEFENSE REVIEW. (TEXT HAD BEEN CIRCULATED TO PERMREPS EARLIER IN THE DAY.) LOGAN POINTED OUT THAT PARAGRAPHS 6 AND 7 INDICATE STEPS WHICH UK IS READY TO TAKE IN RESPONSE TO DPC VIEW. HE ALSO ADVISED THAT HIS GOVT WANTS TO KEEP NATO CONSULTATIONS CONFIDENTIAL UNTIL PUBLICATION OF WHITE PAPER, EXPECTED MARCH 19. SYG LUNS RESPONDED THAT HE WOULD SCHEDULE DPC MEETING TUESDAY MARCH 11 ON STEPS WHICH BRITISH INTEND TO TAKE AND ON A DRAFT PRESS RELEASE COVERING UK DEFENSE REVIEW WHICH IS WILL CIRCULATE MARCH 10. MISSION WILL FORWARD DRAFT PRESS RELEASE WHEN RECEIVED. MISSION COMMENT: STEPS PROPOSED BY BRITISH APPEAR MINIMAL, CONSIDERING STRENGTH OF ALLIED VIEWS, EXPRESSED DURING NATO CONSULTATIONS. END COMMENT.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 NATO 01295 01 OF 02 081740Z

ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON COMMENTS ON BRITISH STEPS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS ASPECTS BY MARCH 10. TEXT OF UK LETTER FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT:

1. MY COLLEAGUES AND I HAVE CAREFULLY STUDIED YOUR LETTER OF 10 FEBRUARY CONVEYING TO THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT THE VIEWS OF THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE DEFENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE ON OUR DEFENCE REVIEW PROPOSALS. I SHOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS MY THANKS TO THE DEFENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE AND THE NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES FOR THE HARD WORK THAT HAS BEEN DONE TO ENABLE THESE VIEWS TO BE CONVEYED TO US WITHIN THE TIMESCALE THAT WE PROPOSED. I AM GRATEFUL FOR THE SYMPATHETIC WAY IN WHICH YOU HAVE EXPRESSED YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES WHICH THE UK FACES AND WHICH WE REGARD AS UNIQUE WITHIN THE ALLIANCE IN TERMS OF OUR LOW RATE OF ECONOMIC GROWTH, OUR ADVERSE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS AND THE DISPROPORTIONATE BURDEN OF DEFENCE SPENDING WHICH OUR ECONOMY BEARS. I ALSO WELCOME THE TRIBUTE WHICH YOU HAVE PAID TO THE IMPORTANT MILITARY CONTRIBUTION WHICH WE MAKE TO ALLIED DEFENCE. IT WAS, AS I AM SURE YOU REALISE, NO EASY TASK FOR US TO PROPOSE REDUCTIONS IN OUR DEFENCE CONTRIBUTION OR TO DECIDE WHERE SUCH REDUCTIONS COULD WITH LEAST DAMAGE BE MADE. BUT OUR PROPOSALS WERE PUT FORWARD ON THE BASIS THAT, AS YOU HAVE NOTED, NATO IS REGARDED BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AS THE LINCH PIN OF OUR SECURITY AND WILL REMAIN AS THE FIRST CHARGE ON BRITISH DEFENCE EXPENDITURE. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND OUR PROPOSALS WERE DESIGNED TO ENSURE THAT THE CONTINUING BRITISH CONTRIBUTION TO THE ALLIANCE WOULD BE USED WHERE IT WOULD BE MOST EFFECTIVE.

2. AS YOU KNOW, ALMOST ALL OUR DEFENCE EFFORT IS ALREADY COMMITTED TO THE ALLIANCE. MOREOVER, AS YOUR OWN LETTER MAKES CLEAR, THE PRESENT BRITISH CONTRIBUTION TO NATO COVERS ALL REGIONS OF ALLIED DEFENCE INCLUDING THE MARITIME AREAS, AND ANY SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION IN THE BRITISH DEFENCE EFFORT IS BOUND TO HAVE SOME EFFECT ON THE ALLIANCE AS A WHOLE. WE BELIEVED THEREFORE THAT IT WAS NECESSARY FOR US TO MAKE CHOICES: FOR THE DECISION WHICH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN ON THE LEVEL OF RESOURCES WHICH COULD BE DEVOTED TO DEFENCE OVER THE NEXT 10 YEARS WAS FIRM. IT FOLLOWED FROM THIS THAT ANY CHANGES IN OUR PROPOSED CONTRIBUTION WHICH WOULD

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 NATO 01295 01 OF 02 081740Z

HAVE THE EFFECT OF INCREASING THE LEVEL OF EXPENDITURE WOULD HAVE TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY PROPOSALS FOR REDUCTIONS IN OTHER AREAS. THIS WOULD IMPLY A DISPOSITION ON THE PART OF THE ALLIANCE TO QUESTION THE PRIORITIES WHICH WE HAD CHOSEN.

3. IT APPEARS FROM YOUR LETTER THAT THE DPC VIEW ON THE PRIORITY AREAS FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM'S CONTRIBUTION DOES NOT DIFFER SUBSTANTIALLY FROM THAT PUT FORWARD BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT. WE HAVE, HOWEVER, CONSIDERED CAREFULLY THE QUESTION WHETHER THERE ARE ANY MEASURES WHICH WE CAN TAKE WHICH MIGHT GO SOME WAY TO MEET THE CONCERN OF OUR NATO ALLIES WITHOUT INCREASING EXPENDITURE OVER THE LEVEL WHICH WE HAD DECIDED.

4. WE TOO HOPE THAT THE IMPACT OF OUR DECISIONS WILL BE MITIGATED IN THE LONGER TERM THROUGH INCREASED CO-OPERATION WITHIN NATO BY MEANS OF RATIONALISATION, SPECIALISATION AND STANDARDISATION: THROUGH FURTHER CO-OPERATIVE EQUIPMENT PROGRAMMES IN NATO; AND THROUGH THE REALLOCATION OF RESOURCES FROM OVERHEADS AND SUPPORT UNITS TO COMBAT CAPABILITIES.

5. YOUR LETTER EMPHASISES THE POLITICAL AND MILITARY CONSEQUENCES WHICH OUR PROPOSALS ARE JUDGED TO HAVE FOR CERTAIN NATO AREAS. YOU REFER PARTICULARLY TO THE POSSIBLE EFFECTS ON THE SOUTHERN REGION: BUT THESE SHOULD NOT BE EXAGGERATED. AS YOU KNOW, WE SHALL REMAIN IN MALTA UNTIL THE EXPIRY OF THE MILITARY FACILITIES AGREEMENT IN 1979 AND OUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE ALLIED COMMAND EUROPE MOBILE FORCE WHEN DEPLOYED TO THE SOUTHERN REGION WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED. AS REGARDS THE NORTHERN REGION, WHILE I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT OUR PROPOSALS MEAN A REDUCTION IN THE AVAILABLE REINFORCEMENTS TO THE AREA, OUR COMMITMENTS TO THE ACE MOBILE FORCE DEPLOYMENT TO THE NORTHERN REGION ALSO REMAIN UNCHANGED. HOWEVER, WE SHALL HAVE THE CAPABILITY TO REINFORCE NORTHERN NORWAY ALL THE YEAR ROUND WITH A ROYAL MARINE COMMANDO GROUP SPECIALLY TRAINED AND EQUIPPED FOR MOUNTAIN AND ARCTIC WARFARE. AND WE SHALL STILL BE OFFERING REINFORCEMENTS OF A STRENGTHENED BRIGADE GROUP AND THE SPECIAL AIR SERVICE REGIMENT TOGETHER WITH THE OFFENSIVE AIR SUPPORT AND HELICOPTER AIRLIFT ALREADY AVAILABLE.

6. HOWEVER, I AM PREPARED TO CONSIDER SOME OF THE COMPENSATORY MEASURES MENTIONED IN YOUR LETTER AND IN THE MILITARY COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM AND TO UNDERTAKE THEM SO LONG AS THEY CAN BE

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 NATO 01295 01 OF 02 081740Z

ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT ANY SIGNIFICANT EXTRA COST. ON THIS BASIS WE CAN OFFER, AS PART OF NATIONAL DEPLOYMENTS, PARTICIPATION IN PERIODIC NATO MARITIME EXERCISES AND IN THE NATO NAVAL ON-CALL FORCE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN, ALTHOUGH I SHOULD MAKE IT CLEAR THAT AS REGARDS OPERATIONS IN WAR ANY DEPLOYMENT OF BRITISH NAVAL AND AIR FORCES TO THE MEDITERRANEAN WOULD HAVE TO COME ABOUT AS A RESULT OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MAJOR NATO COMMANDERS CONCERNED. WE ARE ALSO READY TO CONTINUE REINFORCEMENT OPTIONS FOR THE SPECIAL AIR SERVICE REGIMENT IN THE SOUTHERN REGION OF ALLIED COMMAND EUROPE. IN THE ATLANTIC AND CHANNEL COMMANDS WE ARE READY, SUBJECT TO DETAILED DISCUSSIONS, TO CONVERT HMS HERMES TO THE CVS ROLE TWO YEARS EARLIER THAN WE PLANNED TO DO, IE IN 1976 INSTEAD OF 1978: TO EARMARK THE ROYAL FLEET AUXILIARY ENGADINE FOR ASSIGNMENT TO CHINCHAN: AND TO EARMARK SOME ADDITIONAL AIRCRAFT FOR ASSIGNMENT TO SACLANT/ CINCHAN FOR RECONNAISSANCE.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 01 NATO 01295 02 OF 02 081743Z

44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

H-02 NSC-05 SS-15 IO-10 OMB-01 EB-07 /081 W

----- 092742

P R 081450Z MAR 75

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 528

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

USLOSACLANT

CINCLANT

USDOCOSOUTH

AMEMBASSY LONDON

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 USNATO 1295

7. THERE ARE CERTAIN ADDITIONAL DEPLOYMENT OPTIONS WHICH WE ARE PREPARED TO DISCUSS WITH OUR ALLIES ALTHOUGH WITHOUT ANY COMMITMENT ON OUR PART AT THIS STAGE. THEY WOULD ALL BE DEPENDENT ON A VERY CLOSE DEGREE OF CO-OPERATION WITH THOSE OF OUR ALLIES WHO MAY BE PREPARED TO ASSIST US WITH TRANSPORT AND THE NECESSARY "HOST" FACILITIES. THESE OPTIONS WOULD BE TEMPORARY PEACETIME AIR DEPLOYMENTS TO THE SOUTHERN REGION, AND AS FAR AS REINFORCEMENT IS CONCERNED THE DEPLOYMENT OF OFFENSIVE AIR SUPPORT TO NORTH EAST ITALY AND OF A SMALL LAND FORCE TO NORTH EAST ITALY. ON THE SAME NO-COMMITMENT BASIS I AM PREPARED TO STUDY WITH OUR ALLIES WHETHER THE TWO ROYAL MARINE COMMANDOS WHICH REMAIN DECLARED TO SACLANT COULD CONTINUE TO BE USED TO REINFORCE THE NORTHERN REGION (EXCEPT FOR NORTHERN NORWAY IN WINTER) AND THE ISLAND COMMANDS. THE PROVISION OF SEA-LIFT AND ARMY SUPPORT FOR THESE OPTIONS WOULD OF COURSE REQUIRE FURTHER INVESTIGATION. I SHOULD MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THE STUDIES WHICH I AM SUGGESTING WILL HAVE TO BE BASED ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE OPTIONS CONCERNED SHOULD INVOLVE NO QUESTION OF OUR UNDERTAKING ANY CHANGES IN DEPLOYMENTS WHICH WOULD INCREASE THE LEVEL OF OUR DEFENCE EXPENDITURE AND THAT THE FULL

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 NATO 01295 02 OF 02 081743Z

AND CLOSE CO-OPERATION AND ASSISTANCE OF OUR ALLIES WOULD BE FORTH-COMING. WE ARE VERY READY FOR THE FURTHER DISCUSSIONS ENVISAGED IN THIS LETTER TO BEGIN AS SOON AS MAY BE CONVENIENT. BUT IN THE DEFENCE WHITE PAPER WHICH I EXPECT TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE MIDDLE OF MARCH, WE SHALL MAKE IT CLEAR THAT, APART FROM THE PARTICULAR MEASURES MENTIONED IN THIS LETTER, WHICH ARE BEING CONSIDERED AS A RESULT

OF THE VIEWS EXPRESSED TO US IN THE COURSE OF CONSULTATION WITH
NATO, THE PROPOSALS WHICH WERE PUT TO THE ALLIANCE LAST DECEMBER
AND OUTLINED AT THE SAME TIME TO PARLIAMENT NOW REPRESENT THE
FIRM DECISIONS OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT ON OUR FUTURE DEFENCE
PROGRAMME. END TEXT. BRUCE

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 18 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NATO01295
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750398/abbrziqo.tel
Line Count: 224
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 APR 2003 by CunninFX>; RELEASED <25 APR 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <28 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UK DEFENSE REVIEW; MOD MASON LETTER TO SYG LUNS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, UK
To: STATE
SECDEF INFO USCINCEUR
USNMR SHAPE
USLOSACLANT
CINCLANT
USDOCOSOUTH

LONDON

Type: TE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006